

Brian Sandoval  
*Governor*



Chris Perry  
*Director*

Bernie Curtis  
*Chief*  
*Nevada Highway Patrol*

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Trooper Chuck Allen  
Nevada Highway Patrol – Northern Command  
Public Information Officer  
[callen@dps.state.nv.us](mailto:callen@dps.state.nv.us)  
775-689-4680  
775-230-4921

## **Media Advisory**

### **Recklessly Driven Leads to Pursuit, Spiked Tires, Taser® Deployment and Arrest**

On Monday, August 15, 2011, at approximately 2:41 pm, our Department of Public Safety-Communications Center began receiving telephone reports from several callers regarding a vehicle being driven in a reckless manner. The vehicle was described as a gray colored 2005 Mercedes 4-door sedan with Nevada license plates traveling south on US 395 near the Stead Blvd interchange. A trooper in the area was advised of the vehicle's description and located it a short time later near the Parr Blvd interchange.

As the trooper was attempting to call out the specific traffic stop information to the dispatcher, he observed the Mercedes strike another vehicle traveling southbound on the highway. He activated his patrol unit's emergency lights and siren while the Mercedes continued traveling south without yielding. The driver was utilizing many lanes of the freeway and struck the adjoining roadside barriers on many occasions. Other troopers were updated to this call and two of them prepared to set up spike strips near the Neil Road interchange. The Mercedes had been traveling at speeds ranging from 60-70 miles per hour. As the vehicle crossed both sets of spike strips, at least two of the four tires were punctured. Another trooper had positioned himself near the next freeway exit near Virginia Street/Patriot Blvd. At least one more tire had been successfully punctured as the vehicle continued to travel south on the freeway. Additionally, officers from the Reno Police Department and the Washoe County Sheriff's Office were advised of this call as the vehicle continued to travel south.

The driver, later identified as 32-year-old Mariusz Debski of Reno, transitioned onto State Route 431. While continuing to follow the fleeing Mercedes, troopers witnessed Debski travel into the oncoming or eastbound travel lanes of the Mount Rose Highway.

At that point, a decision was made to stop the vehicle by directly engaging the sedan with two patrol cars. The vehicle was stopped a short distance later near the intersection of Wedge Parkway without any other motorists being hit or involved by this errant fleeing driver.

Once the Mercedes was stopped, one of the NHP sergeants ordered Debski out the vehicle. Debski failed to obey all of the multiple verbal commands and continued to stare blankly ahead. The supervisor then broke out the right front passenger window of the Mercedes in an effort to gain physical control of the driver.

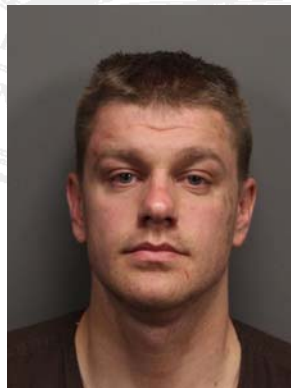
As soon as the window shattered, Debski accelerated his vehicle forward, traveling approximately 25 feet, striking a traffic light pole. He continued to accelerate his engine when a Washoe County Sheriff's deputy minimized any further actions by deploying his department issued Taser®. Once struck with electronic Taser®, law enforcement personnel physically removed him from the driver's compartment and placed him into custody.

Because Debski appeared somewhat lethargic, an ambulance was dispatched to check his medical condition. Paramedics indicated Debski's blood sugar levels were extremely low and he was taken to Renown Regional Medical Center by REMSA ambulance with a trooper following. Once at the hospital, Debski was attended my medical personnel and was discharged from the hospital a short time later. The only officer injured in the event was a Reno police officer who sustained minor cuts to the face from glass debris.

Debski was taken into custody by our agency once more and transported to the Washoe County Detention Facility and booked at approximately 5:50 pm on the following charges:

- Hit and Run Accident (misdemeanor)
- Failing to Yield to an Emergency Vehicle (gross misdemeanor)
- Reckless Driving (gross misdemeanor)

His total bail was just under \$4,000 dollars.



**XXX**